

A few words to the people of England, who have had a day of visitation.

*Visitation, not to frighten us but to give us
of our sins, that we may be purified, and so be
able to stand before the Lord.*



*And England, many years ago, was
visited, and the Lord hath been
with thee. On that thou hast seen
the Lord thy God hath been with thee,
and thou hast seen the Lord thy God
above the clouds, and he that created the
heavens and the earth, the Father, hath
made manifest his love unto thee: so that in the church of
thee (thou people of England) I speak, who are the
of the Lords desire, with thee. I am the light of the world,
and Jesus Christ, who hath redeemed every one that cometh into
the world: with which light O people of England, thou hast
seen the deeds that be done in thee and other Nations have
never seen, and that in thy conscience (O people of England)
was as before, but thou hast thy own eyes) hath shown
the deeds of them that were in Authority before thee, the
Bishops and their Prester, and their Prelatical Authority,
and the persecutions they used over the people of God, and
their usurped Authority they used over tender consciences
that then were living in thee: thou wilt not deny, and
it was not unknown to thee, O thou people of England, how
the Bishops with their Prelatical Authority and usurped
power did fine imprisonment banish and lay waste thy people O
England, who for conscience sake refused to bow down to the
Idolaters worship, and thou hast seen the same in the
people of England, it was not hid from thine eyes neither*

thou ignorant, how others who were called civil Governours, and had the Authority of Magistracy in that *O England*, did usurpe Authority over mens persons estates and consciences. And to thee *O people of England* it was discovered what corruptions there were, and all other in Authority lying in, that then were heart of the Nation; and then thou couldst have cryed, *The Judges judge for reward, the Prophets Prophecie falsely, the Priests teach rule by their means, and my people have to have it so, but what will ye doe in the end thereof*; was not this thy cry in that day, when thou wast in distress *O people of England*? to that in thy conscience I speak: Was it not a griefe to thee when thou wast kept low? yea the griefe of thine heart to see people persecuted, mocked, and imprisoned, or banished under names and titles given them by their enemies, wherewith to cover their bloody enterprises? and I call that in thy conscience to witnesse, if thou didst not languish under their tyranny in those days? and how many prayers and tears hath hee of some, and how much imprisonment others, and how much banishment others; and in these thy languishing days of sorrow hast thou with tears and prayers, and with hands lifted up entreated the Lord that he would be pleased to pull down that Authority which did then usurpe and bear rule over tender consciences in this Nation, and them that did uphold it? and how many vows promises and engagements didst thou make in thy lownes and distress, if ever the Lord would give thee power and strength to overthrow the Tyrants that then bare rule, and if ever the Lord would bring those Tyrants and their laws into thy hands, thou wouldest utterly destroy persecution out of *England* for ever, and make *England* a free Nation; was not this thy engagement and promise *O people of England*, when thou wast under, and in distress? to that in thy conscience I speak, *O* that thou wouldest give it leave to answer me, that thou mightest come so far where thou hast been and repent, for here thou wast that in thy conscience will witnesse for ever.

And now *O people of England*, the Lord God by whose hands the Heaven and the Earth was made hath granted thy request, so that the Lord hath not been slack but hath given thee

thee

thee what in tenderness thou shalt desire. What shall thou
 charge the Lord with that he hath withholden himselfe, which
 in freeness in thy day of sorrow thou didst desire the Lord
 hath brought under thy feet the necks of them that did op-
 presse thee, and the Lord hath brought into thy power their
 Authority and their Laws, and subdued them all under thee,
 to the full request of that which then breached under did de-
 sire; to that which condemns the disobedient doe I speak,
 which is an eternall witness to thy face before the Lord, how
 thou hast performed thy Covenant, which thou madest with
 the Lord in the day of thy calamity. Consider, take heed as
 that in thy conscience, return, the living witness for God
 will not be mocked with words nor deeds, to the light of
 Christ in thy conscience look, and it will let thee see, that the
 same Laws which thou in thy adversity and lownesse didst
 promise to pull downe are standing still, are not oppressive
 Laws to compell men to pay Tithes, to the maintaining of
 covetous hirings and other monies, standing in as great
 force as ever; and many of their outward estates spoiled by
 these oppressive Laws which thou promised to take away; and
 this is not done by an enemy of thine, but even by thee who
 didst professe to be faithfull in performing thy Vowes to the
 Lord. Thou faire professing people of *England* who hast
 made so many faire promises to take away oppressions, to the
 light of Christ in thee I speak which will witness me and con-
 demn thee, for holding up these things which thou promised
 to the Lord thou wouldst pull down, except thou repeat with
 speed, and let the light in thy conscience judge if these per-
 secuting Laws under names and titles be not standing yet in so
 great force and power as ever they were in thy fore-fathers
 days, which the Lord by thy hand hath destroyed, and thou
 dost now exceed thy fore-fathers in persecuting the innocent
 under names and brands which thou dost put upon them, that
 the truth may appeare odious, and that persecutions done
 by thee may be supposed to be punishing of errors, as
 thy fore-fathers ever did, as at this day is plainly made mani-
 fest in many places of thy Land, O faire promising people of
England, and many people under and dear to the Lord in
 many

In manye Towns and Citty of thy Nation is imprisoned without any Law of iustice at all, may not so much as Queen & 26 by the Populls Lawes allidge against them, was there ever such things done by thy fore fathers which I have destroyed before thee? hast thou already forgotten that the Lord pleaded the cause of the innocent with thy fore fathers and overthrew them? O call to remembrance what the Lord hath done to thy Predecessors in former time (who persecuted the innocent and tender hearted ones) who hardened their necks and would not regard the counsel of the Lord, which was and is the light in all consciences, which light once shone in thy conscience, by which thou sawest them which lived in persecuting and oppressing the seed of the Lord in its arising and appearance; and people that in thy conscience is witnesse against thee, that thou art left without excuse, and also that in thy conscience the light is witnesse against thee, that thou hast built the Sepulchres of the Prophets, and garnished the Sepulchres of the righteous and whited them over with faire words and promises, and thou sayest if I had been in the days of my fathers, I would not have been partaker in the blood of the Prophets, and yet thou art filling the measure of thy fathers iniquities, and the same wrath, curse, and judgements of God waites to be poured upon thee, except thou repent, and be warned in time, many warnings hast thou had from the Lord (that in thy conscience thou witnesse) by the hand of them that are and have been persecuted by thee, and imprisoned by thee, but thou hast cast them behind thy back, as all the persecutors in all ages have done before thee, who by the power of the Lord were destroyed, and now O faire saying people of England, by the same power thy destruction comes for truce breacking with the Lord, and let that in thy conscience judge, if thy judgement from the Lord be not just upon thee, which will appear in the day of thy misery and overthrow, though thou for a while tread above it, but if thou have not totally put out the light, and if any spark of light be in thee thou mayest see thy selfe going the way of all bloody persecutors into perdition, for ever and ever, except thou repent, and remember that thou art more wretched, and no more warning

can I promise thee, whether thou wilt choose or refuse. And againe heare the word of the Lord, thou people of *England*, if thou wilt not be warned nor repent, I but will lift up my neck against the tender Lambes of my pasture. Thus saith the Lord, because of the Cry of the oppressed, and the many prisoners which contrary to my Law thou hast imprisoned for no other Cause but because they cannot worship thy Idoll Gods which thou hast sett upp, and the Idoll Gods which thou hast sett upp are many, for thou hast promised many sweete promises to take away Idolatry, Superstition and Oppression and all Lawes over the Consciences of men, that I the Lord might be worshipped according to my owne will; which I have made manifest in my Childrens Consciences, and that my Gospell, even the word of eternall life, might have free passage through thy Land *England*, but now I see the finnes of *Jeroboam* which caused *Israel* to sin, are held up by thee, Yea the high places which are in thee *England*, and the Priests of thy high places beare witness before my face against thee, which thou hast sett upp contrary to my Will; which I have made manifest in every mans Conscience; and for what end did *Jeroboam* sett upp these high places, and those Priests, was it for this end that he was afraid that the people of *Israel* should returne to the Temple at *Jerusalem* to worship, which then was Commanded of God for his people to worship at.

And now O people of *England*, thus saith the Lord, who pittied thee when thou little in thy owne eyes, and put a sword in thy hands to cut downe Idolatry high places, usurping Priests made of the basest of the people, and corrupt Lawes, wherewith they did tyrantize over the Consciences of my people, and pride and respect of persons, which then I let thee see to be before destruction, and thou wast bearing, but now hast turned thy sword against them who are brought out of those things, and witness against them, and now I the Lord thy God in visitting thee, and thy works, have found unfaithfullnesse, in what thou promised to me in the day of thy Calamity, and unfaithfullnesse in thee in what I looked for at thy hand, for now I see that thou O people lifted up, dost hold up the very same high places, and as had a generation

of Priests as thy forefathers did, and the same usurped Lawe over mens Consciences, and the same persecuting Lawes, even the Lawes of Papists, wherewith to imprison my servants, yea not respecting persons is made a Law for thee to imprison many of my servants, and many of my servants are imprisoned by thee, because they cannot breake the Commands of Christ, and many of my deare Children are imprisoned by thee, because they cannot pay Fees for being imprisoned and kept many moneths without any just Law broken, as at this day there are many Witnesses of my deare servants, whose witness thou dost refuse, because they abide in my Doctrine, and dare not sweare at all, but their witness have I received against thee, because I know their sufferings, and their Cry is come before me, and this is the Cause why thou holdest up these things, even the sinnes of thy forefathers, which made *England* sinne, for which I will plague thee with all my stormes; Thou people of *England* art afraid, that if liberty be graunted to worship me according to my Will which I have made manifest in my Childrens Consciences, that then the hearts of people which thou wouldest have to serve thee, and feed thy lusts, will be turned unto me, and then thy covetous hireling Priesthood which in all ages I have cryed against, will fall downe, and thy pride will famish, and wither, and thy oppressions will cease, whereby a great part of thy wickednesse is upheld, and thy honour will depart from thee, and returne to me, and thy respect of persons which thou art so mad on, which I have and for ever forbid and denie, and for feare that those and the like things should come to passe upon thee (to that in thy Conscience which is of me which thou hatest doe I speake, which will witness me and condemne thee for thy stiffe-neckednesse) that this is the cause that thou dost so torment my tender Lambes; and because thou dost these things, and will not be waned, but wilt still provoke me to jealousy by thy Idolls; I even I which plagued thy forefathers, will proceed against thee by my sword; I will plead with thee by and with the fire of my jealousy, till thou that wouldest not obey my Councell which I did give in thy Conscience be utterly laid wast and desolate.

and

and I will blott out thy name, as I have blotted out the name of thy forefathers who held up the same thing that thou dost, and I will get me honour in destroying thee, as I got me honour in destroying thy fathers before thee, and thou shalt know that I am the Lord God, whose hand is not shortened but is strongly stretched out to destroy and slay all that will not that I should reigne over them; therefore expect my plague, for it is neere at hand to come upon thee, and my hand will I hold no longer, for because of the Cry of the oppressed and the many prisoners who unjustly suffers, my heart is moved with pittie towards them, that I can hold my hand no longer, but suddenly powre forth my hott displeasure upon thee, for I will not alwayes strive with thee but will come quickly; the Cup of thy fornication is full, and the Cup of my wrath is full also; and now expect fulnesse for fulnesse, this is thy portion, wrath for pleasure thou shalt receive, I the Lord have spoken it, whose word is without repentance; and now people thy time is short and draweth very nigh, except thou wilt be warned.

A warning to all the Rulers in these Nations.

ANd now o Judges, Rulers, and Heads of the people in these Nations, you may reade your Cloud of Witnesses who are your example, who persecute the Innocent, and turne aside the needy for a thing of naught, You may reade in the Scripture what they were, and what manner of Princes, Kings, and Rulers they were, who were persecutors in all Generations, and doe not you say in your hearts you are Christians, and walke in the same footstepps of them who persecuted the Prophets and them that were sent early and late to forewarne them, and stood in the gate and declared in their Townes and Cities against the abominations that were committed, and *Jeremy* they put in the Dungeon that his feete stunk in the mire, and put his feete fast in the stockes, and *Mica* in prison, and *Daniel* in the Den of Lions, and *Herod* and *Pilate* were made Friends in the persecuting of Christ, and they sett him at naught and the Priests and the Rulers conspired against him, and sought to entrap him in his words, and the Apostles they put in prison, in the stockes and whipped them and scourged them, and communded them to depart out of their townes and villages and Cities, and called them seditious, and pestilent fellows, and said they bred tumults in the Cities, when as they were tumultuous themselves and persecuted, and mocked, and shamefully intreated. And now you that are found acting in those practices are found acting the same, you may reade your Cloud of Witnesses and your example, and be ashamed o *England*, *England*, and *Ireland*, Is this the fruite of the great profession you have made so many yeares, and now when you are proved the best of you is as a brier, and the most upright sharper then a thorne-hedge. What is become of the promises you made in the day of your Calamity, when sorrow and feare and oppression compassed you about on every side? Hath the Lord broken the yoke from all your necks, and is your finger becoming heavier then their loynes? Was there so great oppression and cruelty acted among the Bishops and Prelates?

Prelates? Was prisons so filled, was there such ginnes and trapps laid for the Innocent when their High Commission Court was upp?

O shame shame! that ever it should come in the eares, or be reported in other Nations, that ever you should requite the Lord thus for all his love and mercies; that he should breake the yoke from off your necks, and scatter your enemies on every side; and cut them off in his wrath, and hath given you their habitations to dwell in, and the power into your hands. Shall the axe boast it selfe against him that hewes therewith? and will ye requite the Lord thus for his love? Surely these things are come before the Lord, and a booke of remembrance is written; and all these things shall stand as witnesse against you when the booke of Conscience is laid open: But you, may be, will say, you know no such that suffers for Conscience sake; Turne but your eare, and listen but to every Goale and prison in every County, and there may you see many of your poore Brethren stopped upp in holes among murderers, and theeves, and transgressors, even they who have borne a part with you, in the sufferings with the Nations in the heat of the day, and if you say they have transgressed any Law, why doe you not execute it upon them, but some kept in prison two or three yeares, and never calld to know what is the matter. But friends know this, many suffers now for the transgression of no knowne Law, but may be have cryed out in your Townes against iniquity, or have declared against the blindnesse and ignorance of some who goe in the way of the false Prophets, and in the error of *Balaam*; O the Land is full of such Deceivers as have flattered the people and her Princes, till the Lord bathed his sword in their blood, and now they are flattering you, and sowing pillows under your arme-holes; If you say as the Pharisees said, *We have a Law, and by our Law he ought to dye*, if you execute those Lawes and stand to those Lawes which were made by them that oppressed you, the same shall come upon you, as come upon them, and God will breake the yoke from off the necks of the oppressed, and the yoke shall be laid upon you, who makes a man an Offender for a word, and therefore con-

sider, a warning to you all, and be you warned from the Lord God, to cease from oppressing the Innocent, nay you are left all without excuse, for I know you are not ignorant of these things; and further I say unto you, uphold not them by your power who are flattering the Nations, and crying peace, and daubing the people with untempered mortar, and telling them they are Christians when they are Heathens, and live in that nature that puts Christ to open shame, for the hand of the Lord is against them, and prophanes hath gone from them, those Teachers that use their tongues and say, he saith, when the Lord hath never spoken to them, and therefore the people are lost for lack of knowledge, and there is not one among them that is able to turne any from his Iniquity; and therefore I say unto you, flint not nor limit not the Lord by your wills, nor your Lawes made in your wills, for if you doe he which rents the heavens, and makes the earth reele as a Cottage, will breake you and your Lawes together, and there shall be none that shall be able to deliver you out of his hand who is pure and holy just and true, and will not give his glory to another, for he alone workes and who shall lett, and will bring his owne worke to passe, and none shall hinder, and therefore take heed you strive not against the Lord and so be broken upon the stumbling Stone to peices, A lover of righteousness and a Friend to all just powers.

Francis Howgill.

A warning to all the World.

Woe woe unto all the Inhabitants, for the Lord God of power is coming in Power and great glory with ten thousand of his Saints to judge the Earth, and to make a desolation, and an utter overthrow, and a Consumption shall come upon all flesh, and its glory shall be stayned, for all flesh hath corrupted its way and gone awhoring after other Gods, and hath committed fornication with strangers, and whoredomes with the uncircumcised, and the Land is filled with monsters,

monsters, and the living God is departed from, the Lord is grieved, the Lord is weary with forbearing, and will no longer forbear; Now is he arising to execute his Judgement in the Earth, and to sift the Nations, and all shall now be put into an even ballance, and the wicked shall be as dust and as chaffe which the wind blowes away, and shall be scattered and never more gathered, for a fire is come out of *Sion*, its before the Lord of Hosts, and its tempestuous round about him. Coles of fire are kindled by the breath of his nostrills, to burne upp all the stubble and chaffe, even by the breath of his mouth the Lord hath uttered his voice before his Army, for his Campe is great, as a Lion and is greedy of his prey as a young Lion, he will not spare but devoure and destroy all the uncircumcised, and cutt off from the Earth even all the abominable; Tremble, tremble, O Earth before the Lord, and all ye carelesse Sonnes and Daughters that live at ease in the flesh, in wantonnesse and in mirth, a day of howling is coming upon you, a day of sorrow and lamentation; Howle howle and weepe ye that spend your dayes in vanity, in lust and pleasure, killing the Just; ye Drunkards your throates are as an open Sepulcher, your throates shall be dried upp and parched with the flame of the Lords indignation, the Lion shall be famished; *Dives* end is your portion you covetous greedy Deceivers, oppressors, lyars, swearers, proud, envious, contentious quarrellers, ye vaine very light minds, ye are as dust, and will have your portion in the lake that burnes; *Tempter* is prepared, Hell hath enlarged her selfe, the grave stands open to receive you, the Pitt hath opened her mouth, the Deepe shall swallow you upp, ye rebellious and stiff-necked Generation, who feares not the Lord, but addes sin unto sin, behold the day is coming, ye shall with the Mountaines fall upon you, and the rockes to cover you, and shall seeke death, but shall not finde it, the Arme of the Lord is stretched out, the hand of the most High is against you, you fruitlesse trees that cumber the ground, you shall be cutt upp by the rootes and cast into the fire, ye lyars, swearers, cursed speakers, ye proud and covetous, double dealers and hypocrites, which say in word what you are not in deed, and make a profession of

the name of God, but departs not from iniquity; the trumpet of the Lord is blowne out of *Sion*, the Alarum is sounded out of the holy Mountaine, let all the Inhabitants of the Earth tremble, a noyse of warre and rumor of warre is heard, his sword is furnished and brandished to make a great slaughter, and the slaine of the Lord shall be many; O ye potsheards of the Earth, will ye strive against the Lord, will ye sett bryers and thornes in battell against him, who shakes the Heavens, and makes the Earth reele as a Cottage, which dries upp the face of the deepe, and cuts off all the fresh Springs and makes the Cedars fall, and powres downe snares upon the wicked, fire and hayle, storme and tempest, and pillars of smoake, this shall be your portion to drinke, the mouth of the Lord of Hosts hath spoken it; O foolish people and unwise, when will you seeke after Wisedome, Wisdome hath lift up her voice in the streetes, but you have stopped your eares as deafe Adders, and say in your hearts, we will not have righteounesse to rule over us, but we will walke as our Fathers, and worship as other Nations doe, and as them whom the Lord hath cut off out of these Nations as untimely fruit, and are perished with the uncircumcised: Feare feare, tremble tremble, ye Careles ones, ye hard hearts, ye rockes shall be broken, ye Cedars shall fall, ye strong Oakes shall be cut up by the rootes your roote shall perish, ye Mountaines shall melt, ye wild savage Creatures, that are as wild Asles upon the mountaines, a moneth is coming wherein you will be found. And a day is at hand wherein you shall see him whom you have peined, yea, behold the Judge of all the World stands at the doore, even of the quick and the dead, and he comes in the Clouds with power & great glory, and every eye shall see him, and every heart shall melt, and all faces shall gather paines, and all knees shall smite together, and every tongue shall confesse his Judgement just, when he shall execute his wrath upon you, and sweep you into the pit, and blow you away with the whirlewind of his wrath, and then you shall be judged out of the booke of your Consciences, therefore feare feare & repent, repent and prize your time while you have it, and mind the light of Christ Jesus that shewes you your Iniquities and sinnes, and it love and it will

turne you from sin and unrighteousnesse to Christ Iesus, from whence the light comes, and it love and it will judge all your vaine actions, and bring condemnation upon all the deceit, and lead you to true confession and forsaking, and to know the Lord is pure and holy, and nothing that is evil can dwell in his sight; and so remember you are all warned in your life time, lest you be swept away into the pit, and perish for ever and ever, and there be none to deliver you, and unto you this is the word of the living God, whether you heare or forbear.

F. H.

A Lamentation over all England, who are yet under the curse, & are yet in their first nature, and shut out from the presence of the Lord.

THere was a time when Christ wept over *Jerusalem*, to do I even lament over thee *O England*, for the same nature bears rule in thee now as was in *Jerusalem* then, for thou art persecuting them now, who are sent to forewarne thee of the evill of thy doings *O England*, how would the Lord have gathered thee together as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings and ye would not, but hast gone on contrary to the light in the conscience, therefore your habitations shall be left unto you desolate; *Woe be unto you Scribes and Pharisees hypocrites, for you build the Tombs of the Prophets and garnish the Sepulchres of the righteous, and you are saying, if we had been in the dayes of our fathers we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the Prophets, and so you are witnessing that you are the children of them that murdered the Prophets, and ye are fulfilling the measure of your fathers, O serpents the generation of vipers how shall yee escape the damnation of hell? behold I send unto you Prophets and wise men, and of them shall you kill and crucifie, and of them shall you scourge in your Synagogues and persecute from City to City; and in thee *Oh England* is this Scripture now fulfilling, *O England England*, that thou dost but know the judgements that hang over thy head because of thy*

Mat. 23. 37.

98.

Luke 13. 34.

Mat. 23. 29.

20, 31, 32, 33.

34.

Rom. 14. 2.

disobedience, and because of thy going on still contrary to the light in thy conscience; O *England* be obedient unto the Lord in this day of thy visitation, O that thou hadst an eye to see where thou standest, for thou standest upon a slippery standing, as a Sea of glass with fire, ready to fall into destruction thou art for thy disobedience unto the Lord thy God. O re-

Gen. 3. 24.

Rev. 12. 11.

turne, returne all you that are in the first nature, going on in your sins, in lying, swearing, seeping, rearing, pride, covetousnesse, back-biting, envying, cozening, cheating, and all manner of wickednesse, O you are shut out from the presence of the Lord, and the flaming sword is turning every way to cut you down, so that you cannot come to the tree of life; *Woe be unto the inhabitants of the Earth and of the Sea, for the Devil will come down unto you having great wrath, knowing that he hath but a short time;* therefore returne unto the Lord, and seek him whilst he may be found, for this is the day of the Lords love unto your souls, now while you have time prize it, least ye be cast into utter darknesse, there shall be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth, and there sinners that dye in their sins shall be tormented for ever.

Mat. 25. 30.

Jer. 9. 1.

I cannot chuse but lament for thee O *England*, O that mine head were full of water and mine eyes a fountaine of tears, that I might weep for thine inhabitants O *England*, who proceed from evil to worse, and they have not known me, saith the Lord, But let every one take heed of his neighbour, and trust ye not in any brother, for every brother will use deceite, and every friend will deal deceitfully, and every one will deceive his friend and will not speak the truth, for they have brought their tongue to speak lies, and take great paines to do wickedly, their feet are swift to shed blood, their throat is an open Sepulchre, under their tongues is the poyson of Aspes, their habitation is in the midst of Deceivers, because of their deceit they refuse to know me, saith the Lord; Therefore thus saith the Lord of Hosts, Behold I will melt them and try them, for what shall I else doe? for the daughters of my people their tongues shute out and speaketh deceit, one speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in his heart he layeth waite for him: O I lament for you to see the miseries that are coming upon you without ye repent; therefore, re-

turne, returne, O *England*, unto the Lord and he will heal thy
 backslidings and love thee freely; Return, saith the Lord, and
 I will not let my wrath fall upon you, but thou hast rebelled
 against the Lord thy God, and hast scattered thy wayes unto
 strange Gods under every green tree, but ye would not obey
 my voyce, saith the Lord; O ye disobedient children returne
 againe, for I am your God, and I will take you one of a City
 and two of a Tribe and will bring you to *Sion* if you be willing
 and obedient: Therefore O *England* yeild up obedience un-
 to the Lord and he will make thee the glory of the Nations;
 wash thine heart cleane from wickednesse, and hate the evil,
 and love the good, and establish righteous judgements in thy
 Gates, and the Lord will be mercifull unto the Remnant that
 hath escaped the dark and cloudy day, for the long night of
 Apostacy is over and gone, and the bright morning Star is ri-
 sen in the hearts of the Sons and daughters of the most high,
 praised be the Lord that it was his good will and pleasure to
 leave a seed in thee O *England*: O returne, returne, repent,
 repent, why will ye dye O house of Israel; Now there are
 many that desire the day of the Lord as they call it, the lay-
 ing down of their flesh in the earth, and they are yet in their
 sins, and they think they shall be purified after death, but
 there is no remembrance of thee in the pit, there is no calling
 on thee in the grave, for if the tree fall towards the South, or
 towards the North, in the place the tree falleth it shall lye.
 Therefore woe to such that desire the day of the Lord, what
 have ye to doe with it? the day of the Lord is darknesse and
 not light, as if a man did flee from a Lyon and a Beare met him
 or went into the house and leaned his hand upon the wall and
 a Serpent bit him: O therefore you that intend that your souls
 may live or enjoy the presence of the Lord, yeild up obedience
 to the pure light of Christ in the conscience, and returne with
 speedy repentance, for the day of the Lord it is nere hasteth
 greatly, even the voyce of the day of the Lord, the strong
 man shall there cry bitterly, that day is a day of wrath, and a
 day of trouble, and a day of heavinesse, and a day of destruc-
 tion, and a day of desolation and a day of obscurity and darknes-
 se, a day of clouds and darknesse, a day of the Trumpet and
 against the strong Cities and the high towers, against

those that are strong in their fleshly wisdom, and high in their earthly imaginations; for the world by wisdom knows not God, neither indeed can it because it is spiritually discerned. O *England* thou hast long been led by thy blind guides, which have told thee that the people house is the Church, but they are liars, the Church is to God. O turn you, turn you, turn your mindes within to the pure light of Christ in your consciences, that so you may come to winnes a seperation between the precious and the vile in you, so you may come to have the old heart taken away and a new heart given you that may bring forth the righteous, then shall you come to say with *David*, thou hast made me wiser then my teachers; there you will come to see the inhabitants of the Earth house, and low places of the Earth rore, for the company of Merchants are destroyed, all they that bear Silver are cut off, so with the light of Christ within you, you may come to witnes your *Jerusalem* searched with his light within you, so you may come to see your barren ground to be broken up which hath long layn fallow, in seed of Grapes hath brought forth wilde Grapes; O *England* thou hast long lost thy key of knowledge, O now repent and do thy first works, thou wast created holy but through thy disobedience to the light in thy conscience thou hast been shut out from the presence of the Lord, because thou hast not walked humbly before him: O break up thy fallow ground & sow not amongst thorns, be circumcised unto the Lord, and take away the foreskin of your hearts, for of man as he is in his first nature is deceitfull above all things, and desperately wicked, as who can finde it out? Therefore now return your mindes within, seek no more the kingdome of Heaven in outward observations, prove your selves whether you are in the faith, examine your own selves, know ye not that Jesus Christ is in you except ye be reprobates; therefore now see by that light that is within you, see who it is rules within you, and come to see whether that small seed be not buried within you, which lyeth low, even in the dust, for the kingdome of Heaven is compared to a small thing, even to a graine of mustard seed, which is said in the Scripture to be the least of all seeds; now be ye obedient to this small seed which lyeth low within you, & therein it will grow to be the strongest of all seeds, so keeping your minds stayed upon it, to wait upon the Lord to be guided by his counsell.

From the Dungeon of Basham, by a lover of your

souls and a prisoner of Jesus Christ,

Tho: Wooddrowe